

LITERATURE CITED

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REVIEW

✓ **"FERNS AND FERN ALLIES OF GUATEMALA, PART II. POLYPODIACEAE,"** by Robert G. Stolze, Fieldiana, Botany n.s. 6: i-x, 1-522. 1981.—This is the second of three parts of Stolze's monumental and indispensable work on Central American ferns. (The first part, containing the Ophioglossaceae, Marattiaceae, Osmundaceae, Schizaeaceae, Gleicheniaceae, Hymenophyllaceae, Plagiogyriaceae, Dicksoniaceae, and Cyatheaceae, was reviewed in Amer. Fern J. 67:94. 1977.) The present part matches the format and quality in both text and illustrations (all genera and some species are illustrated) of the earlier part and covers the remainder of the ferns, which are all placed in the Polypodiaceae *sensu latissimo*, alphabetically from *Acrostichum* to *Woodwardia*. Although this arrangement is handy for finding the 67 genera and over 500 species and infraspecific taxa treated in the volume, it does not group related species or genera together, which can be a disadvantage when browsing through the volume while making identifications. However, the keys are ample and well constructed, and so will surely be used for this purpose. The genera are construed broadly, especially *Polypodium*, but that is no disadvantage to the user, and the correct names in the segregate genera are given in the synonymies. The species treatments each include a brief synonymy, habitat and range statements, an original description, and often copious notes. Of special value are Stolze's comments on unresolved taxonomic difficulties which point students of ferns toward areas of fruitful research. Dubious and excluded species are accounted for. Presumably an index will conclude the third part, and that will add greatly to the utility of all the parts.—D.B.L.